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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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## HOLIDAYS



## Festival has themed trees, live music, and fun for kids

By Michael Harrison  
mharrison@turley.com

THREE RIVERS — When the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center opens its vintage doors at 4 p.m. Friday for the start of a multi-weekend, Christmas-themed festival, it represents the institution's next big step in its recovery from a stubborn pandemic heading into its second year.

The ninth annual Tree and Wreath Festival is not only wildly popular, but is also the main fundraiser for the not-for-profit. Shuttered for most of the pandemic, the PHCC, at 2072 Main Street, has been deprived of the self-sustaining revenue its rich palette of programming usually provides.

The festival, which will be held Dec. 3-5 and again next weekend, helps kick off the Christmas season in Palmer and will help ensure the arts have a home not just here, but in the region. The concerts, exhibits, lectures, and other events draw residents from around Western Mass and beyond. Like other successful destinations, the PHCC helps drive the local economy, bringing business to shops and those in the hospitality sector, especially restaurants.

Likewise, the Tree and Wreath Festival has been successful due to the generosity of many businesses

and individual donations of wreaths, trees, ornaments, and gifts, as well as all those who purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win and take home their favorite themed tree or wreath. It's that spirit of community that has helped the PHCC, which is still trying to find its equilibrium, weather the pandemic.

"We're still here — that's a big plus!" PHCC President and Acting Director Bob Havales said, only half-joking.

Just a few months into its re-opening, two recent events, a concert and the screening of a World War II documentary with audience participation, attracted a few dozen people each. Havales said more than twice that number would have showed up in pre-pandemic times.

Unlike this time last year, however, most people have been vaccinated against COVID-19, restrictions on gatherings have long been lifted, and interest in indoor entertainment is back on the rise. All good signs for this year's Tree and Wreath Festival. And festive it will be.

"I think people are starting to get ready to come back and this is a good kickoff to let people know where we are," Havales said.

"Just seeing the trees lit up at

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## A weekend of events

*To get you in the spirit*

PALMER — There's no lack of things to do this weekend to get you in the Christmas spirit.

In Palmer alone, from Friday to Sunday, a series of events has been very intentionally planned so individuals and families won't have to fret over choosing one over the other. The events have been smartly spaced out so those who want to experience all of them have the opportunity. Here's a look at what's going on in town. Enjoy!

## Santa's Elves ask you to help 'Stuff the Cruiser'

By Michael Harrison  
mharrison@turley.com

PALMER — For the second consecutive year, Lori Chiacchia and her Santa's Elves of Palmer are determined to help local families in financial distress have something to smile about at Christmastime.

One of the ways they are making a difference is by encouraging residents to bring a new, unwrapped toy to the second annual Stuff the Cruiser event at the Palmer Police Department, scheduled to be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 4. This year, Santa's Elves is requesting that people bring a non-perishable food item for Palmer Food Share to the event.

For weeks, Chiacchia and the Elves have been busy organizing,

checking stores for deals on toys, collecting, sorting and storing donations, and helping out wherever needed. Their Facebook group has been buzzing daily with posts about the dozens of local children sponsored by group members. Last Saturday, Chiacchia did a livestream from Tables at The Farm as winners were picked for the gift basket raffle the restaurant hosted.

Now she's focused on seeing another successful Stuff the Cruiser take place.

"No child should be left without," Chiacchia said.

"Come out, and make the magic of Christmas come alive!"

There's no goal as far as the number of toys. Chiacchia said all types of toys that would be en-

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## Don't Miss 'Light Up Palmer' Dec. 4th

By Jonah Snowden  
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — It's about to be one of the most wonderful times of the year in the town Palmer.

Light Up Palmer, the annual event to usher in the Christmas season, is scheduled for 3 p.m. Dec. 4 in Depot Park and will feature ice sculpting from Michael Rondeau, free coffee and hot chocolate from Dunkin', the official lighting of the park, a reading of "The Polar Express," food trucks and more. Chairman of the Light Up Palmer Committee Christine Smith also said she is excited to have popular local singer Noah Lis, who previously auditioned for "The Voice," provide a special performance. "We're very lucky to have him give up an evening performance in Boston to help us out for our event," Smith said.

She also said the DQ Acapella Group will be providing a performance as well and North Brookfield Saving Bank will be providing a free photo booth.

"We're very appreciative of all of our sponsors," Smith said.

"It's exciting because of their sponsorships, we're able to provide the community with a wonderful

free event that is family-friendly. I'm very excited to be able to have our group offer this through sponsorship. Not only this event, but this entire weekend is full of festivities. There's the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center's Tree and Wreath Festival. After going to that, they can come over to our event on Saturday, after visiting the Stuff the Cruiser event. The Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce will finish off the weekend with a free Santa on the Commons event, so when people say there aren't things to do in Palmer, it's not true," Smith said.

"It's about whether or not people want to participate in the activities that are available. This weekend is a prime example of what groups are bringing to the community. We're working together throughout the villages to make this happen for people."

Light Up Palmer expresses its gratitude to the following sponsors for their generosity:

Platinum: Bertera Chevrolet / Country Bank / Demore's Automotive / North Brookfield Savings / Northern Tree / Paul Shepardson Electric / Sanderson MacLeod /

LIGHT UP | page 2

## COMMUNITY

## 700 Thanksgiving meals served to residents in need

By Jonah Snowden  
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON — This year, on Thanksgiving, the Monson Republican Town Committee put politics to the side to ensure every family had a traditional dinner on the national holiday.

Chairwoman of the committee Lindsey Esser said after learning about the number of residents who didn't have access to a food pantry, she reached out to her 33 active members in the committee to see if they could do a food drive.

"That was in the third week of October," Esser said.

"We reached out to the school system and told them what we're doing and have the ability to identify the families that would need a meal. That's really where it started taking off because that's when it took off. We set a goal of a 150 families and ended up with 236."

In all, more than 700 residents who are experiencing food insecurity and financial distress received a proper holiday meal.

Recipients of the food drive included students at the Early Childhood Education Center, Granite Valley School, Monson High School, local veterans and residents of Colonial Village. The number of people in a family determined how much food was distributed. For example, a family of six received two boxes of stuffing, an 18 to 22-pound turkey, two large boxes



Over 236 families in Monson and surrounding areas were provided a meal this Thanksgiving courtesy of the Monson Republican Town Committee.

Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden

of mashed potatoes, three cans of corn and more. Adam's Hometown Market, the U.S. National Guard at the Westover Air Reserve Base and Main Street Tavern are some of the establishments that showed their support to the cause.

Also, Select Board Clerk and town Health Board member Mary K. Hull coordinated with the residents in Colonial Village.

Although most of the families

the committee served are in Monson, four families in Ware, five families in Palmer and six families in Wales were served.

"This town has pulled together for this, which is awesome," Esser said.

"We ended up getting a little under \$1,800 in Stop and Shop gift cards. What we're doing with the rest of those is donating them to the families, instead of doing a

food drive. We'll also be building out bags for families with students who are in the elementary school."

Esser said this will not be the last time the committee will put this food drive together and plans to start it next year.

"This was a very spur-of-the-moment thing that turned into something much bigger than I and

MEALS | page 2

## BIRTHDAY MILESTONE

## Mary Degan going strong at 104 – and counting

By Diane Kane  
Correspondent

BRIMFIELD — Longtime resident Mary Degan celebrated her 104th birthday on Oct. 19.

Mary was born in 1917 in Malone, N.Y. She met Floyd Degan there, and they were married for 66 years until his passing in 2005.

Mary and Floyd moved from New York to Springfield, finally settling in Brimfield in the early 1970s at Meadowbrook Acres. Mary made many friends in Brimfield over the years.

"She especially loves her next-door neighbor Laurie," Mary's daughter Linda Depeau from Enfield, Conn., said.

"We all consider Laurie part of the family."

The Degan family was close-knit.

"When my parents first came to Springfield, four of my dad's brothers moved there at the same time," daughter Linda said. "They all helped to build each other's houses. And one of my mother's sisters married my father's cousin."

After moving to Brimfield, Mary worked and raised her family.

"My mother was a cashier for Bradlees department store on Boston Road in Springfield until she retired at 62," Linda told me.

"She and my father loved to travel. I have a beautiful picture of her at Misquamicut beach in 1940 at 23 years old, around the time my father taught her to drive. After they



Courtesy photos

Mary Degan, who turned 104 in October, in an undated photo.

both retired, they visit relatives and stay a few months each year in Florida."

They also made yearly foliage trips. In recent years Mary has enjoyed her visits to the senior centers in Brimfield and Monson, where she participated in activities and went on bus trips with her daughter or friends.

Mary celebrated her 100th birthday four years ago with a big party at her son Wayne Degan's home in Palmer. Many family and friends attended. Mary is blessed with two children Linda and Wayne, five grandchildren Stacey, Taylor, Eric, Corey, and Lindsey, who was tragically lost in a car accident, and

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# Driver charged in fatal hit and run

By Michael Harrison  
mharrison@turley.com

PALMER — Police arrested a Palmer woman who is accused of multiple charges, including vehicular homicide, after a pedestrian was struck and killed on North Main Street Tuesday afternoon.

According to a statement by Palmer Police Sgt. David Burns, the incident occurred shortly before 1 p.m. on North Main near Wright Street and the driver whose vehicle hit the victim, a male who remained unidentified at press time, left the scene. The road was closed between Fletcher and Searle streets for several hours Tuesday.

Police said shortly after they responded to a call following the collision they located the driver of the vehicle, who they identified as Nicole Matanes, 33, Palmer. She was taken into custody and held on \$50,000 bail.

Matanes appeared at her arraignment in Palmer District Court via Zoom from jail Wednesday morning. Her attorney was present in the courtroom and told the court he had not yet had an opportunity to confer with his client, who entered a plea of not guilty. Matanes was released on bail and ordered back to court for a hearing on Dec. 9.

Palmer Police, who said they were assisted in the investigation by the Monson Police Department and Massachusetts State Police, accused Matanes of seven charges: Operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, second offense; Negligent operation of a motor vehicle; Marked lanes violation; Leaving the scene of an accident resulting in serious injury or death; Motor vehicle homicide; speeding; and inspection sticker violation.

The investigation is ongoing, police said.

## SCOUTS IN THE WILD

# BSA Troop 164 learns survival skills



Courtesy photos

**Creating shelter from available material was part of Troop 164's recent Man v. Wild Weekend.**

PALMER — On the weekend of Nov. 5-7, members of Scouts BSA Troop 164 were able to put their cool weather camping and survival skills to the test during their annual Man v. Wild Weekend.

Scouts built a debris shelter out of fallen trees and leaves that provided overnight protection from the elements and, when built correctly, can be warmer and more

comfortable than a tent. These activities are part of the wilderness survival merit badge and can have application in many situations both in scouting and other non-scout related emergency situations.

Outdoor survival skills are useful during power outages, weather emergencies, or if you become lost or injured in the outdoors. While developing their



**After a day of learning survival skills, members of BSA Troop 164 cook hotdogs for lunch over the fire they made.**

wilderness survival skills, Scouts learn to bring the clothing and gear they need, to make good plans, and do their best to manage risks. If you would like to learn more about Scouts BSA (Boy Scout) Troop 164, email them anytime at troop-164bulldogs@gmail.com or call Scoutmaster Bill Mullen at 413-478-8780.



LULU

Lulu is 9 years old and imprinted on her "Mom" Cathy at six weeks old.

"She thinks she's human and seems to understand all that is said to her," Cathy says. "When asked to smile for the camera, she did! A true companion filled with love!"

Do you have a pet that makes your life special? We feature your pets here and on Facebook every week. Just email a high-quality jpg and some information, including your pet's name, your name, and town, to mharrison@turley.com.

## Finance Board members needed

Do you possess financial expertise? If so, the town of Holland Finance Board invites you to join the team.

The Finance Board is actively recruiting for two full members and one associate member.

If interested, send an email to financeboard@hollandma.org or contact the Town Moderator.

## LIGHT UP from page 1

Tailgate Tavern; Gold: George Stewart Inc. / Rocky's Ace Hardware / Samek Trucking / Steaming Tender Restaurant / J. Stolar Insurance Agency; Silver: Fire Services Group / Kitchen Table Taxes / Noonan Energy / PFD Association / D Iavicoli; Bronze: Crimmins-Graveline Insurance Agency / Dunkin' / Made in America Metals / RM Nietupski.

For more information on Light Up Palmer, visit them on Facebook.

## DEADLINE

**The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.**

## Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.



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CS13102

## Historical Society open house showcases restoration

The Monson Historical Society will hold a Holiday Open House 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the historic Jacob Thompson House Museum located at 7 Main Street in Monson.

Come and meet some of Historical Society members and enjoy touring the museum, as it will be decorated for the holiday season. The house was recently placed on the National Register of Historic Properties, a process that took almost 10 years.

In anticipation of this event, the south parlor has been restored to its former glory with period appropriate wallpaper and window treatments. Anyone interested in Monson history will enjoy this event.

Refreshments will be served and voluntary donations gladly accepted. Masks are suggested, but not required.

## CRUISER from page 1

joyed by boys and girls of all ages are appreciated.

Like last year, Stuff the Cruiser will take place regardless of the weather.

For more information, follow the Santa's Elves of Palmer Facebook group or email Chiacchia at l.jodoin@yahoo.com.



### New Young Child Saturday Series

- Toddler first dance steps ages 2 and up
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### Time has a way of changing things...

With the passing of another year, we reflect on the events that changed our lives-some of them good, but for some, there have been better years. Fortunately, time has a way of healing, and letting us go forward-a promise of better years to come. Whatever last year brought you, we want you to know our family's thoughts are with you for a healthy and happy New Year.



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## The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## Last chance to dump brush

HOLLAND — The Town of Holland Brush Dump's last weekend for 2021 is this weekend, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4-5, at the transfer station located at 3 Hollow Road in Wales.

For more information, call 413-245-7571, ext. 131.

## FESTIVAL | from page 1

nighttime, the music, the holiday spirit, coming off COVID and that year off, we're really pleased that the community has been receptive."

It's the first of several events this weekend: Santa's Elves of Palmer — who were busy earlier this week helping Havales set up for the festival — is holding its Stuff the Cruiser toy drive 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 4, at the Palmer Police Department; at 3 p.m. Saturday, Light Up Palmer is holding a community celebration in Depot Park, and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Santa will be coming to Hryniewicz Park and staying for photos. The Tree and Wreath Festival will return next weekend.

"This was intentional," Havales said.

"All the villages and communities came together so people can go from one community affair to another to celebrate together."

At the festival, visitors can purchase raffle tickets for \$1 each or eight for \$5 for a chance to win trees, wreaths and gift baskets. Themed trees include a lottery-ticket tree, a mitten tree, the Top of the Morning tree decked out with gift certificates to restaurants that serve breakfast, and many more. There will also be activities for kids, such as coloring and decorating sugar cookies, and ornaments as well as live music and other attractions.

Havales said it's all made possible through the work of volunteers and generosity of the business community.

"I made some stops at businesses today," he said Monday, "and they are all really enthused to be a part of this. We have close to 50 businesses supporting us, donating gift certificates, and we want everyone to support them as well."

A big shout out from Havales goes to several individuals and organizations.

"Donna Collette, she started this," he said.

"She initiated this as our major fundraiser, and Liissa Carroll, she co-headed it, and both have been assisting us remotely (from out of state). Dave Golden, he took over the coordination for the physical set up for tree placement and decorating and coordinated the volunteers. We had a lot of help from some of the members of Light Up Palmer who came and helped us out here, and this is also in collaboration with the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce. This doesn't happen without volunteers and the last two days we've had about 80 volunteers. Many hands make light work — it's also fun!"

### Want to go?

What: Tree and Wreath Festival

Where: Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, 2072 Main Street

When: 4-7:30 p.m. Dec. 3; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 4-5; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 11-12.

For more information, go to [palmerhcc.org](http://palmerhcc.org), visit the PHCC on Facebook or call 413-289-9295 or 413-283-3054.

## NOTICE

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## COMMUNITY

# For 7th year, volunteers prepare care packages for military members

By Kayleigh Thomas  
Correspondent

MONSON — Volunteers and Monson High School's National Honor Society filled 62 boxes with community donations for the Military Care Package Drive recently.

The Military Care Package Drive was founded by Karen King and is conducted from her home every year. Residents came in their red, white, and blue attire to support troops who will receive the gifts from home.

The event began with a ceremony highlighted by Jennifer Rocketfield-Sias singing "God Bless America." Monson Police Chief Steve Kozloski presented "citizen coins" for all of the boxes going out to service members to add to their existing collections.

Citizen coins help to recognize positive acts made by the troops.

All Monson troops that receive care packages are deployed residents, stationed somewhere or have family members in Monson. This year, there are 31 recipients: nine in the Army, eight Navy personnel, four Marines, nine Air Force members, and one Coast Guard member; three are serving overseas in Guam, Bar'am and Spain.

"One woman is currently making history. She is guarding the tomb of the unknown soldier in DC," King said.

King shared why she began this event.

"I started it because people were thinking we needed to support our military more," she said.

"So, back in the 80s through Desert Storm, I used to be a Girl Scout leader and



Turley Publications photo by Kayleigh Thomas

Dee Foster picks up a care package for her son Andrew Foster, who is stationed in New York.

so we used to send these boxes weekly to people serving for Monson. So I thought we'd do it again. It kinda morphed into a support system for the families."

Military Care Package Drive Coordinator Lisa Picardi explained how most donations for the boxes were received.

"We asked around the town and had a list created that went to military family members," she said.

"We asked them what they wanted most and could use most. They gave us their top ten things they wanted most. We put it on a list and online. Boxes had gone out to schools, Monson's Free Library and Reading Room Association and Monson's Adams Hometown Market with that information."

As a result, residents could

see which items to purchase from the list and could place their donations into boxes. Many people also brought deliveries to King's home, according to Picardi.

"The whole town has just been so generous," Picardi said.

A number of the boxes contained hygiene products, snacks, and letters. Handwritten notes came from Granite Valley Middle School students, Monson Free Library and Reading Room Association card writing campaign, Monson High School council, Cub Scout Pack 168, and Monson Girl Scout Troop 64877 and 64811. Numerous box flaps were also decorated with drawings by Girl Scout troop 64811 and ornaments from Cub Scout Pack 168 were put into boxes. Military Care Package



Courtesy photo

Monson High School National Honor Society members help support U.S. military members from Monson during the Military Care Package Drive.

Drive volunteer Lindsey Esser, a veteran who spent 10 years as a U.S. Navy Seabee, shared what it was like for her to receive a care package while she was serving.

"It makes you remember why you do what you do," she said.

"Total strangers sent me a box, with letters from kids along with my twelve year-old and two year-old. If I could put it into two words, it would be 'a morale booster.'"

The cause was supported by a number of local businesses. Monson Savings Bank paid all postage fees of \$1,300 to ship boxes. A fundraiser was also held by Monson's Main St Tavern to help raise money for the project.

King explained why she enjoys holding this event each year.

"I love seeing the families and just them knowing we are here to support," she said.

"The best part is going into the schools. A Lot of school

children write cards in which we will pick up the cards and talk to them about patriotism as well as explaining the story. They are involved with the whole process and they love seeing the recipients holding up the cards after. It gives the troops hope during the holidays that they know their town is supporting them."

Another Military Care Package Drive Coordinator, Maryanne Fabrycki, explained how they are trying to expand the program.

"Last year I had a wife, even though her husband deployed, we still supported (her and the family) during the year so we are continuously checking in on them. We are trying to find vets to talk to them, we are trying to broaden it more, so they know to come to us," she said.

With this drive, the tradition of giving endless support and recognition to soldiers continues.

## Monson student's drive in need of 'One warm coat'

MONSON — Now until Dec. 17, Monson resident and Pope Francis Preparatory school senior Madeline Ladew will be hosting a coat drive. Donations will benefit Springfield Rescue Mission ([springfieldrescuemission.org](http://springfieldrescuemission.org)).

Gently worn coat donations for all ages (no holes or stains please!) may be dropped off at the Monson Free library, Monson Savings Bank (01057 location only), and at Saint Patrick Church.

Maddie's coat drive is being coordinated with the non-profit One Warm Coat organization. One Warm Coat has hosted more than 40,000 coat drives and have given away 6.9 million coats across the United States since 1992. More information on One Warm Coat can be found at [onewarmcoat.org](http://onewarmcoat.org).

## Doing Their Duty

Members of Cub Scout Pack 164 recently held a Scouting for Food Collection "Fill the Tent" drive for Palmer Food Share. The food donated helps feed local families and individuals during the holidays and beyond.



Courtesy photo

# PALMER



## TOWN ORDERED AUCTION

TO BE HELD AT TOWN HALL, 4417 MAIN STREET

## 3 PROPERTIES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 at 12 PM

This live public auction features a single family home at 30 Crawford St., a commercial building at 1512 North Main St. and a commercial land parcel at 1110 Park St.

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# Viewpoints

GUEST COLUMN

## #MyBaystateStory

*Working hard to take the fear out of breast screening*

By Julie Slattery

I have lived in Western Massachusetts my whole life with my husband, our three children and our golden retriever Molly. I have an incredible family! I work in the Baystate Mary Lane Outpatient Center and the Baystate Wing locations. I specialize in Mammography, but I also do Radiology, Cat Scans, and Bone Density exams as well. I have been a part of the Baystate Health in this career for 24 years.

I knew at a young age that I was destined to care for others. I wanted a career that would make a difference in the world. It is unfortunate but breast cancer disease had taken my grandmother and my aunt from my family when I was a teenager. It was then that I was inspired to follow this career path. I knew that if I worked hard, and did my absolute best every day that there may be a chance that I could help save lives by giving my patients the opportunity to have the best mammogram experience.

In the field of mammography it is so important to have compassion. Patients are usually anxious and scared when they walk through the door, it makes a huge difference to communicate with them and listen. By allowing them to express their concerns and ask questions it puts their exam on the right path. It is important to be empathetic to each individual, we are all unique, and each situation requires compassion, reassurance, kindness and positive encouragement. I know in myself that I carry these qualities. I am able to build positive experiences that allow the patients to want to return every year, and that is so important in breast health care. During these especially hard times due to the COVID-19 virus, patients have been afraid to return, with elevated anxieties and concern for their safety patients have been afraid to come for their screenings.

We have been working diligently to provide them with the reassurance that it is safe to return! With intense cleaning between every patient, staying masked and offering patient distancing, they are now feeling more comfortable returning to annual screenings. We want patients to know that we are here for them, and our main concern is their safety and health!

I have been very blessed over my career, the rewards of working in my local community and with my team of coworkers, has been incredible. We are a strong, supportive group of people! In our Radiology dept. our patients receive the best care, because we care so much about their health. I am a very competitive person and I like to challenge myself to learn techniques that will allow me to grow in my abilities every day. It is extremely rewarding for me when my patients tell me that I gave them the best experience for a mammogram that they've ever had. It makes me feel confident that they will return each year, with less fear, a positive outlook, and smile on their face knowing that they are in the best hands. Making a difference is so important!

For me personally, I know that I am doing exactly what I am supposed to be doing. I truly enjoy the interaction with my patients, and caring for them on their health journey! Breast cancer detection is being found smaller and sooner, thanks to our Digital 3D tomographic unit that we use to perform our mammograms. We are available for appointments Monday through Friday and I am currently doing mammography in our Ware location.

I encourage all to come for their annual screenings, don't delay, I want everyone to know that we are here for them.

*Julie Slattery, R.T. (R) (M)(CT) is a Radiology Technologist/Mammography Technician at Baystate Health Eastern Region.*

### PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Journal Register, please email [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com).

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Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

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## Spin a wreath or make a swag

The day after Thanksgiving was a pretty big deal in my family. We would walk up into the woods to "the rock," where we would pick greens for making Christmas wreaths. There we were, mom, dad and at least a few of us five kids, lugging garbage bags down the hill to the porch where my dad would spin some Christmas magic. At least that is what I thought it was some 40-plus years ago, and still today.

You see, my Dad was the wreath-maker in the family. His creation would be taken back to decorate a college dorm or whatever apartment my older siblings would return to after Thanksgiving break. One wreath would make its way to the front door of our little red house, too. Decorated with a red ribbon and a few pine cones, it really was something so simple and so beautiful in the same right. His approach is the same one I'll recommend today.

Start with a wire coat hanger bent into a circle and attach some pliable wire to it. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another. Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. It's important, however, to have the wire catch a little bit of the stem of the prior bunch so that way the wreath will be good and tight. You can make a wreath of just extra boughs from your Christmas tree, but mixing in other types of greens will make it more interesting. I like to use prunings from my home landscape: mountain laurel, boxwood, juniper and white pine among others will look great together because they vary in color and texture. You can dress up a green wreath with pinecones, winterberries and artificial fruit, not to mention a big bow. Most types of Christmas tree boughs are conducive to wreath making, but wear thick gloves if you are using Colorado blue spruce as

your base because it sure is picky!

When my Dad gave up making his famous wreaths, Mom took a simpler yet more elaborate approach to decorating our house. She would make a swag for each window! First determine how many you want to make, then set up an assembly-line of sorts. Choose a sturdy green for the base of the swag- extra Christmas tree boughs would be perfect for this as well. I cut however many I need to the same size, and I lay them out pretty side up. Next, I choose another type of green a bit smaller and put it on top. I repeat the process six or seven times until I have a nice upside-down "fan." Here too, varying texture is nice, although Mom's feathery white pine and pine cone swags are pretty by themselves.

To complete your swag, wrap wire around the stems four or five inches down from the top, leaving a loop on the back for a hanger. You can cover the wire with a bow. I have often wired two swags together horizontally. Place a bow in the middle, where the two intersect and hang your creation over a window or door, or even underneath a window for a different take on decorating.

I haven't made my own wreath yet, but thinking back on the wonderful memory of all of us tromping through the woods, and my dad in the wooden rocker on the porch making a wreath, has certainly given me some inspiration to get busy!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

### IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid  
Columnist

## U.S.-China relationship is a huge challenge

By Lee Hamilton  
Guest columnist

The rise of China is the most formidable challenge that American foreign policy faces. With its population of nearly 1.5 billion people and its rapid growth, China has transformed itself into an economic and political powerhouse.

We face other challenges, of course. Among them, terrorism, a turbulent Middle East, a nuclear-armed unpredictable North Korea, climate change, and in relationships with many friends and adversaries around the globe.

But China has emerged as a unique, strong, and sometimes hostile competitor. In a relatively short time, it has built world-class cities, become a global leader in technology and lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty. Its autocratic, centralized model for governing and the economy sharply contrasts to the open, democratic approach advocated by the U.S. and our allies.

The United States has been the world's leading nation largely because of the strength of our economy. We still have the largest GDP, at over \$20 trillion. China the second, far ahead of Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom. Some observers think China's economy will surpass America's by the middle of this century.

In some parts of the world, China is already thought to have eclipsed the U.S. According to Pew Research Center surveys from 2019, Europeans and Australians were more likely to view China than the U.S. as the world's leading economic power. In South Korea, Japan and India, majorities saw the United States as more powerful.

But China's poor record on standards of behavior handicaps its global leadership. Its aggressive actions in the South China Sea worry its neighbors. It has stifled dissent, doubled down on its control of Hong Kong and cracked down on media. Its treatment of the Uighur minority led U.S. officials to accuse it of genocide.

China's lack of transparency and accountability and its propensity for currency manipulation make it problematic for businesses. According to the Global Business Council, the U.S. remains the most attractive country for foreign direct investment while China is No. 12.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping calls the shots, having amassed more personal power than any head of state in the country since Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s and, of course, Mao Zedong before that. Recently, the ruling Communist Party gave Xi full credit for China's rise and set the stage for him to win a third five-year term as the country's leader.

How should the U.S. respond to China? First, we can't neglect the home front. As Council on Foreign Relations President Richard Haass put it in the title of his book "Foreign Policy Begins at Home." When we struggle to deal with our own problems, we weaken our position for world leadership. Moreover, we need to invest in the knowledge economy, including education from pre-kindergarten to graduate studies; fund technology and innovation; and strengthen the social safety net. The recently approved infrastructure bill, which provides funding to repair and improve roads, bridges and public transit and to expand broadband internet, is an important, but not sufficient, step.

Also essential is maintaining a firm and straightforward relationship with China, one that puts American interests first. President Joe Biden spoke with Xi in September and met virtually with him this month. These high-level conversations are essential to managing the competition between the U.S. and China and preventing it from veering into conflict.

This is the most consequential relationship in the world right now, and we've got to get it right. The U.S. and China have many common interests: addressing climate change, trade, preventing terrorism, reducing conflict. There are many issues on which we disagree,

## Letters to the Editor

### Kudos to team, coaches

Congratulations to the Monson Girls Soccer Team in their success in their Western Mass Class D championship and their success in the first MIAA Division 5 State Tournament.

Coached by Eric Degnan and assisted by Larry Pagliaro, this young very skilled team has many more winning seasons ahead of them (22-1). With only three seniors, this team has played together for many years in the Parks & Rec and summer programs coached by Tom Murphy and John Monaghan. Kudos to all these coaches and the Monson Girls Soccer team 2021 with a shout-out to Rob Williams the sideline manager.

Christine Nissenbaum  
Monson

## Gobbling up Thanksgiving Day leftovers

Thanksgiving meal leftovers for our family are often just as good, if not tastier, than when enjoyed at the original feast. Somehow the flavors are scrumptiously enhanced, in any remaining food, even the next day. Maybe it's because all the major baking and cooking is over, and the house is quiet-except for the rhythmic breathing of our four-legged couch potato?

Turkey sandwiches layered with turkey stuffing, and swathed with whole-berry cranberry sauce, or mayo, seem to be the favorites in our household. Actually, over the years, many double-decker, or triple-deckers sandwiches have emerged as a day-after Thanksgiving classic.

During earlier years, after caring for four generations under one roof, we finally emerged from the Triple-Decker Sandwich Generation. Then, we qualified and graduated "Some Come Loudly" with T.D.S.G. De-grees.

Thus, especially after Turkey Day holiday meals, The Hub reigned as "Mr. Chefdom" especially in his Triple Decker domain—the absolute, outstanding, pinnacle of his culinary competence.

Recently, after arriving home just before dark from several amazing family Thanksgiving gatherings, I heard an appetizing offer as Mr. Chefdom unpacked the remaining goodies.

"Want me to make sandwiches from Thanksgiving leftovers?"

"P-L-E-A-S-E!" I begged.

"Want stuffing, cranberry sauce or mayo for dressings?"

"Sure! Everything!"

Pantry door squeaks open: Bread slices lined up. Fridge door opens and shuts: Condiments on kitchen island countertop plus tomatoes and lettuce. Each ingredient prepped for stacking in a multi-faceted, majestic masterpiece.

Then it happened. GROAN. Thump. Splat. Thump. Splat. Thump. Splat.

"Gotta problem?" I asked from another room.

"WHAT'S THIS....in the MAYO?" he bellowed.

Since I'm a home-grown expert in creating deep-creep refrigerator experiments, I ran to see if a UFO (Unidentified Festering Object) met an untimely unearthing.

Seeing globs of cream-colored goop slathered on white paper towels and then sections of green globs, I asked, "E-E-W-W! What are those GREEN GLOBS?"

Long, wide sections of creamy MAYO lay pasted on one paper towel. With a microbiologist's precision, Mr. Chefdom had picked out and had set aside ALL GREEN STUFF on a second paper towel.

"I picked out the GREEN CRUD in the MAYO!" he replied.

Muffling my muzzle, I gently eased into a truthful, soul-soothing explanation.

"It's NOT Mayo, Sweetums... It's TARTAR SAUCE."

"REALLY? How..." he quizzed with his voice trailing off.

"No problem! Easy mistake! Same brand. Same color. Sided by the fridge. Both in easy-squeeze, bottoms-up containers."

Enter: a spontaneous version of our own fancy-footed, laughter-laced Turkey Trot.

Exit: a couple enjoying and gobbling up slathered, towering, triple-decker turkey sandwiches made from Thanksgiving Day leftovers.

### GUEST COLUMNIST



JOAN E. B. COOMBS

## Election letters to the editor welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

## Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No signed or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:  
**The Journal Register  
Letter to the Editor  
24 Water St.,  
Palmer MA 01069,  
or by e-mail to:  
[mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com)**

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

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Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden

**Chairwoman of the Monson Republican Town Committee Lindsey Esser wants the town to know politics and differing opinions are irrelevant when it comes to helping those in need.**

## MEALS | from page 1

our entire group had anticipated,” she said.

“We are going to find a building that we can utilize specifically for the food drive and I think the only thing that we really are going to do is change the planning process.”

Esser also said this food drive is for the town to understand the committee is not in town for just politics, but to also make sure no one is left to fend for themselves.

“I want everybody to know that no matter what, this drive is helping anybody in town who needs it,” Esser said. “Realistically, that’s what any sort of representative or committee in touch does.”



A photo of Mary Degon at Misquamicut beach in 1940.

## DEGON | from page 1

five great-grandchildren Cameron, Kalina, Maddox, Mason, and Hazel.

Longevity doesn’t run in Mary’s family. Her mother died of tuberculosis when she was 12, and her dad didn’t live a long life. Mary is the oldest of her siblings, and she took care of them all after her mother passed away. She has one younger sister, Norma, still living in Westfield.

“I think it’s just luck,” Linda said about her mother’s long life.

Of course, Linda isn’t attributing her mother’s luck to anything in particular, but she did say, “Mom loved drinking Manhattans and playing the card game Pinochle with Dad and friends back in the day.”

Mary’s hobbies include crocheting dollies and cooking.

“She has always been a good cook and makes the best spaghetti sauce,” Linda said.

“Her specialty appetizer for holidays and gatherings was always stuffed celery with cream cheese and green olives.”

Linda treasures the times she spent with her mother when she lived closer.

“I would pick her up once a week, and we would go shopping,” Linda remembers. “We both looked forward to that time.”

Mary’s passion is the Boston Red Sox.

“She watches all the games,” Linda said. “And she gets real riled up!” “Big Papi” is one of Mary’s all-time favorite players.

“She has all the Red Sox gear, even a toaster with the team logo on the side,” Linda said.

Mary doesn’t let much bother her.

“She goes with the flow of the times. She even has a cell phone,” Linda said.

“My mother is pretty easygoing and has never been a complainer. She’s an awesome woman.”

Mary lived in her Brimfield home up until a few months ago. If you want to wish Mary Degon a happy 104th birthday, you can send her a card c/o the Life Care Center of Wilbraham on Boston Road, Wilbraham.



Mary and the late Floyd Degon. The two were married for over 60 years before his passing.

# Holland Community Center

All new programs, events for December

**HOLLAND** — From Veterans Appreciation Day to crafts, quilting and fitness classes, the Holland Community Center at 40 Brimfield Road offers fun, educational, and life-enriching activities for all ages.

What’s new? The **Garden Club** will be starting back up in December. They will meet in the craft room the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

There are nutritious, homemade meals as well. Here’s a look at what’s going on this month:

### Special December events:

12/2 Garden Club 6:30 p.m.  
12/13 Bingo 1 p.m.  
12/13 Book Club 1 p.m.  
12/14 COA Meeting 10:15 a.m.  
12/15 Bemis Farms 1 p.m.  
12/20 Don’t Want Swap 1 p.m.  
12/22 Noah Lis 1 p.m.  
12/27 Bingo 1 p.m.  
12/29 Desiree Star 1 p.m.

### Hungry?

You can dine-in or take out meals on Mondays and Wednesdays. Take out Pick up is 11:45 a.m.-noon. Dine-in is at noon. A \$3 donation RSVP required. Due to a wonderful donation from the Holland Council on Aging, any Holland senior resident will be able to get their

lunch for a \$3 suggested donation. \*

For a \$5 suggested donation you will get the entrée, a side and dessert. All ages are welcome to order.

### December’s Menu

Dec. 1 – Chicken & Dumplings  
Dec. 6 – Breakfast for Lunch  
Dec. 8 – Pasta and Meatballs w/ Salad  
Dec. 13 – Pork Chops w/Potatoes  
Dec. 15 – Chicken Marsala  
Dec. 20 –Chefs Salads  
Dec. 22 – Roast Beef Dinner  
Dec. 27– Ham & Cheese Sandwich w/ Soup  
Wed Dec 29 – Pizza Party  
\*Please have exact change if possible.

### Program highlights

**CRAFTER’S SOCIAL & QUILT-ING:** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.- Bring your favorite project and visit with other crafters each week.

**DOMINOES:** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. – Join us every Tuesday for dominoes. We use colored, numbered pieces instead of dots, which helps if you have less than perfect eyesight. The game is pretty simple and lots of fun. We already have a few new players and they’re having a good time. RSVP encouraged but

walk-ins allowed. Everyone is invited and it’s FREE.

**MIX IT UP WITH DEBBIE:** Wednesdays at 10 a.m. The class consists of core and body conditioning. Includes cardio, strength training, and stretching. Plus its lots of fun. Bring yoga mat and flat fitness band if you have it. RSVP is required. \$5 per person (\$3 for seniors).

**YOGA:** Wednesdays at 5 p.m. – Take time out for you. The holidays are coming and self-care is very important. Come to the Center for an hour of relaxation and self-care.

Have fun and take information home today that you can use tomorrow!

### Every Monday

Mah Jongg – 10:15 a.m.  
Take out Lunch – 11:45 a.m.  
Lunch – noon  
Texas Hold’em – 4:30 p.m.  
**Every Tuesday**  
Crafters Social – 10:30 a.m.  
Dominoes – 10:30 a.m.  
**Every Wednesday**  
Mix it Up – 10 a.m.  
Take out Lunch – 11:45 a.m.  
Lunch – noon  
Mah Jongg – 1 p.m.  
**Every Thursday**  
Food Drive – 11 a.m.

Cribbage – 12:15 p.m.

Pitch – 5 p.m.

Yoga – 6 p.m.

### Wait, there’s more!

Helping Wales Community Pantry

We are still collecting food for the Wales Community Pantry. The Pantry serves the residents of Holland, Wales, and Brimfield. They need peanut butter, jelly, Spa.m., cereal, and other nonperishable goods. You can drop off food anytime or day the Center is open. Monetary Donations can be made out to Wales Community Pantry. Monetary Donations help the Pantry to order fresh meats and produce.

### Need pet food?

Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow has been very generous helping the residents of Holland and other towns by bringing dog and cat food here each week. If you need some for your animals, please stop by any time we are open.

For more information, call the Holland Community Center at 413-245-3163, visit on Facebook or go to town.holland.ma.us/community-center.

## Programs for kids, adults at the Holland Library

**HOLLAND** — The Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Road, has two upcoming programs that should be of interest to families and individual residents:

Beginning Dec. 3, preschool story time and a craft presented by Family Foundations 5 will be held at 1 p.m. every Friday for For children 5 and under with a caregiver. Older siblings are welcome. This will be held outside; In the case of inclement weather, the program will move inside to the town hall community room, and seating will be limited on a first come basis to allow for social distancing.

Also, at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4,

join the library for New England Birds of Prey presented by Wingmasters. You will meet and learn about some of the eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls that live in our area.

This is made possible with a grant from the Holland Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council.

Enjoy a good book? The Community Book Club meets at the Holland Community Center on the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. Copies of the monthly book selection, in a variety of formats, are available for checkout at the Holland Public Library. For more about the club, call the Holland Community Center at 413-245-3163.

## Winter Market at Jabish Brook next week

**BELCHERTOWN** – The Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market Board announced its “Winter Market at Jabish Brook” will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the Jabish Brook Middle School cafeteria located at 62 N. Washington Street, Belchertown.

Organizers are hoping to create a magical indoor winter market, like a European Christmas market. There will be variety of artisans, and also a selection of maple syrup, cheeses, honey, jarred salsa, jams and jellies, dog treats, spice mixes, local bread, and the fruits

and veggies.

A selection of meats and roasts will be available for those family gatherings. Also dried wreaths, potted bulbs and floral bouquets for your holiday tables.

Newsletter sign up available at belchertownfarmersmarket.org.

Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market, Inc. is a nonprofit organization which provides a unique venue for the public to purchase foods and other products directly from local producers in an enjoyable and friendly atmosphere.

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# Pack 164 explores area trails, celebrates fundraiser



Courtesy photos  
Members of Pack 164 hiked to the top of Mt. Dumplin and back recently as part of their Cub Scout requirements as well as a chance to enjoy exercise, a great view and fresh air.

The families and Cub Scouts of Pack 164 enjoyed a hike on a recent weekend. The scouts were able to complete requirements toward their rank while also being able to take in a spectacular view from Mt. Dumplin in the middle of their hike along the trails behind Old Mill Pond and Palmer High schools.

When the hike was over, the Cub Scouts got to push pies in the faces of their Den Leaders as a prize for selling popcorn for the Pack's fall fundraiser. The Pack was unable to have this prize last year due to the pandemic.

The Cub Scouts and Leaders had a great time and enjoyed themselves.

Cub Scout Pack 164 is chartered by the Second Congregational Church in Palmer.

The Pack welcomes boys and girls in grades kindergarten to fifth grade. If you would like more information, email bsarecruiter164@gmail.com.



Courtesy photo  
Moulton Insurance Agency Vice President Katie Gagner, left, Gerry Fountain, owner of the Gaudreau/Fountain Agency, center, and Moulton Insurance Agency President Roy St. George, right, announce Moulton's recent acquisition of the Gaudreau/Fountain Agency.

## Moulton Insurance Agency acquires Gaudreau Fountain Agency

WARREN — Moulton Insurance Agency, of Ware and Belchertown, has announced its acquisition on the Gaudreau/Fountain Agency, of Warren.

"We are very excited to welcome Gerry and the Gaudreau/Fountain Agency clients to the Moulton family. Gerry's knowledge and experience will add to the exceptional service that his clients will enjoy at Moulton Insurance," says Roy St. George, principal of the Moulton Insurance Agency.

"I have known the Moulton Agency and Roy St. George for many years. I am looking forward to this partnership and what the future will bring to our clients," says Gerry Fountain, owner of Gaudreau/Fountain Agency.

The Fountain agency has been a fixture not only in the Warren area, but the entire region for 82 years. The agencies' longevity is a testament to the hard work that Gerry and his family has put into the business.

Moulton insurance continues to grow and be one of the largest insurance agencies in the pioneer valley. The 152 years of combined experience and service will be a benefit to the clients of both agencies. Moulton offers additional companies, more discounts, and superior service to its clients.

Fountain clients will continue to have exceptional customer service along with convenient locations to conduct business in Ware and Belchertown.



Courtesy Photo:  
The Monson Arts Council hosted its 42nd annual Holiday Craft Fair, which featured over 70 vendors.

## MAC hosts 42nd annual craft fair

MONSON — Over the weekend, the Monson Arts Council hosted its 42nd annual Holiday Craft Fair.

On Nov. 27 and Nov. 28, over 70 vendors occupied four buildings, which included the Monson United Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson, Memorial Hall and the House of Art. Vendors included Brimfield Botanicals All Natural Body Products, Glass Visions and more. Also, not only did the Monson Girl Scouts provide caroling, but Santa Claus stopped by for a visit courtesy of the Monson Fire Department. The craft fair had homemade items, which included homemade candles, quill, jewelry, wood cutting boards, knitted items and more.

Coordinator of the craft fair Chase Barnett said they usually begin planning this event in August. She also said it's their primary fundraiser and is appreciative of each vendor and visitor who attended the event.

"My craft vendors are overwhelmingly supportive of the turnout," Barnett said. "When I see the number of shoppers, I just know there's a lot of support for this event."

The support for the Monson Arts Council does not have to end with the craft fair, to stay up to date with council's workshops, become a member, subscribe to the newsletter, receiving invitations to all culture and social events and send over a donation, visit monsonartscouncil.org.

## Grant aids Monson's sustainability efforts

State Representative Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow) is pleased to announce the town of Monson will be receiving \$5,400 in Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection grants under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.

"It's very exciting to be able to announce this important grant for Monson," Ashe said.

"The protection of Monson's natural environment is vitally important for all of us and this new round of funding will allow Monson to successfully implement programs throughout the community that will have an impact for generations to come. Congratulations to Monson!"

The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program is an initiative by the Baker-Polito Administration to help municipalities and solid waste districts maximize recycling, composting, and waste reduction. The grants allow communities who receive them to improve local recycling and composting programs, receive new recycling bins and carts, collect hard-to-recycle items, and other initiatives such as the implementation of recycling programs in schools, municipality buildings, and other public spaces.

For more information on the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, visit mass.gov.

## Community invited to remember loved ones on Baystate Wing Tree of Love

PALMER — As the holiday season approaches, the Baystate Wing Auxiliary offers its annual Tree of Love.

This special tree has been created to honor and remember loved ones and features ornaments that can be purchased, personalized with names in memory of family and friends and placed on the tree.

"The Tree of Love gives our community members a chance to remember loved ones during the holiday season," said Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Auxiliary of Baystate Wing Hospital.

"The holidays are upon us and we understand how difficult the holiday season

can be on those who have lost loved ones. But special days can also provide opportunities to remember the good times that were once shared with loved ones. They give us a chance to think about, talk about or do something special to honor someone who continues to be an important part of our lives. For some families, placing the name of a family member on an ornament and being a part of the Tree of Love brings them some

comfort."

It's especially meaningful now.

"The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge us to be creative around spending time together and honoring loved ones that have passed," Glabicky said.

"We hope our community members will consider joining our Tree of Love as a way of celebrating them."

The ornaments may be purchased for \$5 for a single name and \$10 for a family. The decorated Tree of Love is displayed in the lobby located on the ground floor of the hospital.

"The Tree of Love is our annual tradition that warms our hearts as we remember loved ones and celebrate their lives," said Carol Doyle, member of the Auxiliary who coordinates this special event.

"All proceeds benefit the Baystate Wing Auxiliary, which in turn donates needed equipment and other items to the hospital for the benefit of patients. In addition, this year the Auxiliary awarded scholarships totaling five thousand dollars to five local high school students pursuing a career in health care, an annual tradition that our Auxiliary members are particularly proud of."

For over 65 years, the Auxiliary has supported Baystate Wing Hospital through their sponsorship of special events and gift shop sales. This diverse group of women and men include teachers, nurses, business owners, both young and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital.

For more information about the Tree of Love or to purchase an ornament, contact



Courtesy photo  
Tree of Love ornaments may be purchased for \$5 for a single name and \$10 for a family at the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop.

Carol Doyle at 413-267-9219 or purchase Tree of Love ornaments at the Baystate Wing Gift Shop located on the first floor.



These are just a few of the real-life moms and pops working to keep small business alive and well. **This holiday season, make sure small businesses are on your shopping list.**

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK BUTTS.....	\$1 <sup>56</sup> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG.....	77¢ lb
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SOCCKER

## Panthers made history in 2021 season



Mia Murray dribbles up the field during Palmer's first game of the year



Loretta Petraszewicz looks to deke around a Belchertown player. Belchertown gave Palmer its only loss until the state finals.



Ava Theoclis juggles the ball during a Palmer shutout again Ware in late September.



Grace Burke drives towards goal.



The Palmer High School girls soccer team made school history with the program's first time as a state finalist. The Panthers were edged by Sutton 3-2 in the Division 5 finals on Nov. 20.



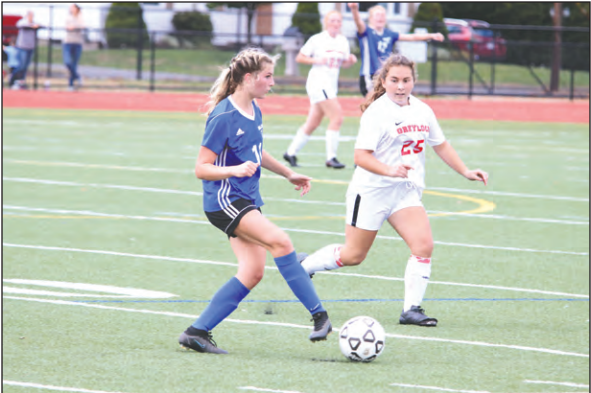
The Palmer High School girls soccer team captured the inaugural Western Mass. Class C championship.



Gwen Duggan dribbles up the field during a win against Holyoke in October.



Jordan Bigda tries to make a pass ahead of pressure.



Ava Przybycien sends a pass by the Mt. Greylock defender during the new Western Mass. tournament.



Maddy Theriault goes for a shot on goal in the state title game.



Charlotte Theriault heads up the sideline.

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – It was said by many coaches and athletic directors that the COVID-19 pandemic had a chance to set sports programs back significantly by taking chances for students to play.

Palmer girls soccer took the challenge. In the 2021 season, led by a powerful offensive group, the Panthers quietly and slowly worked their way to a memorable and monumental season, one of the most successful in the program's history.

Adding to the challenge, was the fact the team was getting used to a new coach, Celso Sandoval. But the team took the helm of the program, and brought the Panthers to a historic finish.

"I can't say enough positive things about my kids," said Sandoval following the state finals. "They made history here today by being the first Palmer girls' soccer team to make it to the state finals. It was a great season and there are no regrets. This is a very special team."

Sandoval did have a very special group of seniors, led by Maddy Theriault, who had a massive career even with a COVID-shortened season in 2020. She would finish with 175 career points, including 139 goals. Not far behind is her sister Charlotte, who emerged as a major scoring threat this season, scoring a goal in the state finals and proving herself as a goal-scorer for the team this year, and Charlotte's high school is just beginning.

Another player who had a phenomenal year, but flew under the radar was goalie Sara Dresser. Dresser, who will graduate this year, led the Panthers to 21 wins this season. She posted 12 shutouts, and only allowed more than two goals twice, both them the Panthers' losses this season.

Palmer opened its season with a loss. Though the defeat was largely written off as it came against Division 3 Belchertown, one of the best programs in the region and a much larger school than Palmer. It also was just a 3-1 loss as Palmer showed early in the season it could hang with tougher opponents.

Then the undefeated streak commenced, as Palmer defeated Central 7-2, followed by a 7-0 drubbing of Hoosac Valley. The only blip in the radar was a 0-0 tie against Frontier.

Palmer would capture the Grieve Division title and moved on to the new PVIAC-sponsored Western Massachusetts Tournament.

The Panthers were placed in Class C under the new alignment set up for the tournament. The Panthers outscored their opponent 10-1, and defeated Mt. Greylock for the third time this season, 3-1 in overtime.

The Panthers received the No. 3 seed in the Division 5 state tournament, getting the opportunity to host all its playoff games until the semifinals. The home-cooking worked at well for the Panthers as they dispatched of Greenfield, Mystic Valley, and West Boylston. Then, the Panthers headed for the semifinals to take on Carver, a team that featured a male player. The Panthers were not only able to win, but they won big thanks to five goals from Theriault to reach the finals

It seems ironic the only two losses this season for the Panthers were their first and last games, but the amazing run in between will not be forgotten by the Palmer fans who were able to attend the state championship game locally at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. Facing one of the best goalies in the tournament, Palmer stayed right with Sutton until Sutton went ahead 3-2.

Though there was a lot of crying and emotion from the Palmer players after reaching the final game and falling by a goal, the history set by the team is a huge accomplishment and a great sign for the future of the program.



Payton Baer squares up the ball before making a clearing kick.

File photos



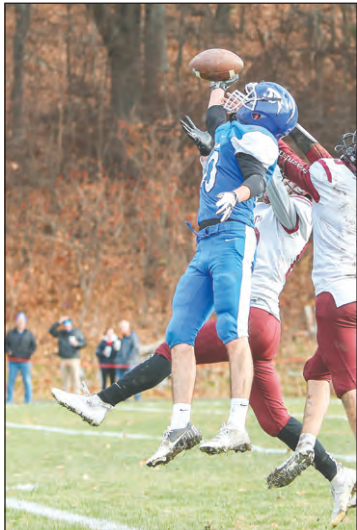
# Panthers spoil Ludlow's Thanksgiving

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—For only the second time during the past 10 years, the members of the Palmer High School football team enjoyed their turkey dinners following a victory against rival Ludlow.

The Panthers, who finished the 2021 campaign with a 9-2 overall record, blanked the Lions, 34-0, before a large crowd at Legion Field in Palmer on Thanksgiving morning.

"We haven't beaten Ludlow in a couple of years, so the turkey dinner is going to taste very good," said Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac. "This was a nice way to end our season, especially for the senior class. They did a good job of holding us together this year."



Trey Yesu snatches the ball from the outstretched hands of two Lion defenders.

The Palmer seniors, who played in their final high school football game, are Anthony Ukrainets, Jack Letendre, Brady Goguen, Trey Yesu, Brady Stahelski, Michael Ziemba II, Chance Lee, Ethan Tremblay, Xavier Nava, Trinal Cooper, Robert Burke, Richard Ingrassia, Roman Cardenales, Logan Fontaine, and Jaden Nava.

The last time that the Panthers celebrated a victory on Thanksgiving Day was in 2016. The final score of that contest was 34-6.

The Panthers scored four of their five touchdowns in this year's meeting against the Lions (2-9) following turnovers.

"We definitely hurt ourselves with mistakes in today's game," said Ludlow head coach Ray Saloio. "Every time that we would have some momentum, we made a costly mistake. Palmer is a very good football team, but we certainly helped them out."

Ludlow has a 39-31-3 record against Palmer on Thanksgiving morning. Last Thursday's contest was the 74<sup>th</sup> overall meeting between the two high school football teams. There weren't



Xavier Nava scoops up the loose ball.



Jack Letendre scampers into the end zone after evading myriad defense attempts to stop him.

any high school football games played on Thanksgiving morning in Massachusetts a year ago because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lions did squeak out a 21-14 home win over the Panthers during the Fall II season last April.

The Ludlow seniors are Joe Bates, Michael Clemente, Tim Del Negro, Derek Derooin, Collin Doyle, Michael Gilrein, Brandon Gomes, Ben Guerin, Andrew Hervieux, Yuhoo Jang, and John Lewis.

"It's disappointing that the seniors weren't able to win their final high school football game," said Saloio. "I'm very proud of the way that they've battled this year and we're going to miss them."

At the first quarter of last Thursday's game, Burke intercepted a pass, which was tipped by Goguen, at the Lions 26-yard line.

Four plays later, Letendre, who has been the Panthers starting quarterback since he was a sophomore, scrambled 20 yards down the left sideline into the end zone.

The extra point by Ziemba gave the home team a 7-0 lead with 10:58 remaining in the second quarter.

Ludlow was forced to punt on their next offensive series, but the Lions offense got the ball

back following an interception by junior Michael Sternowski at his own 38.

Sternowski was also the Lions starting quarterback.

With 2:50 remaining in the opening half, Ukrainets intercepted a pass. The Panthers scored their second touchdown a little more than a minute later following a 9-yard pass from Letendre to Chance Lee down the right sideline.

Ziemba added another PAT giving his team a 14-0 advantage.

The Lions then put-together their best offensive series of the first half.

Sternowski, who's a left-handed throwing QB, kept the nine-play drive alive by completing a 21-yard pass to junior Jayce LaBier at the Panthers 29.

The Lions didn't get any closer to the end zone than that.

Following two incomplete passes, Stahelski and Goguen combined for a sack and the Lions were forced to turn the ball over on downs.

"I'm very glad that we kept them off the scoreboard at the end of the first half," Marciniac said. "If they would've scored on that drive, it probably would've changed the momentum at the start of the second half."

Goguen led the way defensively for the Panthers with 5 1/2 sacks.



Chance Lee displayed his running skills as he moves towards the sidelines.



Jayden Nava leaps to pull in this ball.

The Panthers scored 13 points during the first 32 seconds of the third quarter.

On the first play of the second half, Xavier Nava took a handoff from Letendre and scored a 46-yard touchdown down the left sideline. The extra point attempt was blocked.

On the ensuing kickoff, Jaden Nava stole the ball out of the hands of a Ludlow player and sprinted about 20 yards into the end zone untouched.

"I haven't seen something like that happen in a football game in a very long time," Marciniac said. "It was a very impressive play by Jaden."

Ziemba made the extra point attempt, which increased the Panthers lead to 27-0.

Jaden Nava also intercepted a pass, which set-up a 15-yard TD run by Stahelski with four minutes remaining in the third quarter.

Ziemba added the PAT, which was his 41<sup>st</sup> of the season. It also broke the school record for made extra points, which was previously held by Ryan McCarthy, who graduated in 2017.

Because the Panthers were leading by more than 30 points, the clock didn't stop running during the fourth quarter except for timeouts.

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## Athlete of the Week

### Brady Stahelski

Palmer High School

He had a touchdown and a sack for the Panthers in their big Thanksgiving win over Ludlow.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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## Mustangs' season ended in state semis

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

MARLBOROUGH—It took an incredible performance from Sutton senior goalkeeper Catherine Wright to keep Monson from advancing to the state championship soccer match for the first time in five years.

Wright, who'll be joining the Fairfield University women's soccer team next September, allowed the top-seeded Lady Mustangs to score a goal two minutes into the Division 5 state semifinal match. It was her only mistake of the chilly evening.

While Wright was making save after save, Sutton freshman Addison Jerome scored a pair of goals down at the other end of the field leading the fourth-seeded Suzies to a 2-1 victory before a large crowd at Assabet Valley Regional Technical School in Marlborough on November 16.

"That was one of the single greatest performances from an opposing keeper against us in a number of years. I can't recall a better one," said Monson head coach Eric Degnan. "Catherine Wright was lights out against us tonight. She just kept making big save and big save."

The Lady Mustangs, who captured the Central Division league title and the Western Mass. Class D title, entered the new Division 5 girls soccer state tournament with a perfect 19-0 record. They advanced into the semifinals by dispatching St. John Paul II, Hull High School, and Millis High School.

"I'm so incredibly proud of this group of girls for what they were able to accomplish over the course of the season," Degnan said. "It's a very close team and the way that they play on the field is a pleasure to watch. I thought we played very well in tonight's game and losing the game stinks. You just have to give a lot of credit to Sutton. They're a very good soccer team."

The two girls' soccer teams have now faced each other five times in the state semifinals since 2008 with the Lady Mustangs holding a slim 3-2 edge. The last meeting between the two squads took place in 2016 with Monson advancing to the Division 4 with a 2-1 victory in a penalty shootout. A year earlier, the Lady Mustangs defeated the Suzies, 3-2 in overtime. The game winning goal of that match was scored by Bee Murphy, who's younger sister, Tennessee, was a freshman forward on this year's team.

"I do remember sitting in the stands and watching Bee score the game winning goal against Sutton in overtime," said Tennessee Murphy following this year's state semifinal match. "We really wanted to win tonight's game and losing to Sutton is definitely a heartbreaker for us."

Brooke Murphy, who's one of the best girls' soccer players in the history

of Monson High School, was a seventh grader when the Lady Mustangs made their first ever appearance in the state semifinal match against Sutton in 2008, which was a 5-1 victory.

While Tennessee Murphy will have three more years to help the Lady Mustangs try to win their first state title since 2015, this year's state semifinal loss was the final high school soccer match for Monson seniors Alana Ellis, Miranda Sandoval, and Rylee Bonneau, who was the team captain this fall.

"It's a very difficult loss, especially for the three seniors," Degnan said. "I think the world of them, and they really wanted to play one final game on Saturday. We had a remarkable season, and it just hurts knowing that we won't be practicing tomorrow."

After receiving a pass from junior Emmy Finnegan two minutes into the state semifinal match, Tennessee Murphy fired a shot into the right corner for what turned out to be the Lady Mustangs only goal of the match.

"I thought we put a lot of pressure on them," Degnan said. "We also created opportunities, but we couldn't get more than one shot into the net past their goalie."

Murphy finished this season with 54 goals and 19 assists for a total of 73 points. She has scored 92 career goals, which leaves her 80 goals away from tying her older sister, Brooke, who currently is the leading girls goal scorer in school history with 172.

The Lady Mustangs continued to put a lot of pressure on the Sutton defense for the next twenty minutes.

A rebound shot by Monson sophomore Kendall Bodak was saved by Wright.

Wright made another save on a shot attempt from the left side from eighth grader Hannah Murphy.

Tennessee Murphy also had several more shots on goal during the first 40 minutes of the contest.

Sutton (17-4-1), who had missed two early breakaway chances, scored the equalizer with less than ten minutes remaining in the opening half when Jerome fired a shot into the left corner past Monson freshman goalie Emily Provost for an unassisted goal.

Just like they did during the first half, Monson controlled the first 20 minutes of the second half.

The Lady Mustangs failed to retake the lead, as Wright made several more outstanding saves.

With less than five minutes remaining in regulation, Jerome scored her second unassisted goal giving her team a 2-1 lead.

Following a timeout, two more shots by Monson sophomore's Aniah Myrie and Lynzie Bailey were saved by Wright before the referee blew her whistle for the final time.

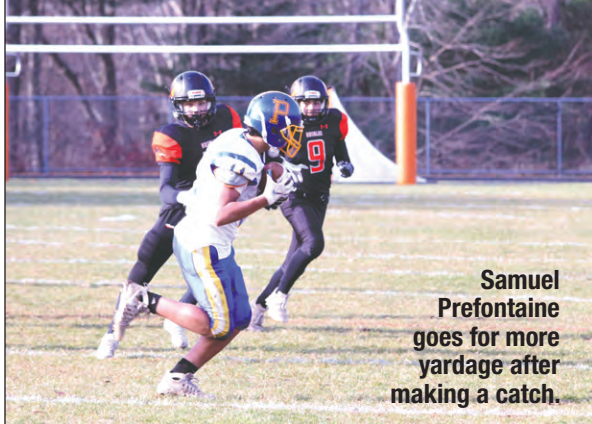
## Early turnovers hurt Pathfinder on Thanksgiving



Matthew Vanasse and Luke Cutone make a tackle for the Pioneers.



Coby Hill attempts a rush through the middle.



Samuel Prefontaine goes for more yardage after making a catch.



Austin Lagimoniore returns a kickoff up the right side of the field.



The Pathfinder defensive line rushes the quarterback.



BELCHERTOWN – Offense started out a bit slow on both sides, but thanks to a couple of key turnovers as well as a couple of great catches, Belchertown jumped out to a 16-0 lead and rode that momentum to a 44-8 win over Pathfinder Regional on Thanksgiving morning at Belchertown High School. Pathfinder threatened the end zone early on, but Belchertown's defense managed to make some big stops. Then Belchertown got on the board thanks to a great touchdown pass from Nolan Otto to a jumping Andrew Fijal. Later in the first half, Pathfinder made an interception on a long pass attempt. But the ball was fumbled away immediately and recovered by Belchertown, setting the Orioles up for a short field and a score to make it 16-0. The Orioles finished 3-7 on the season while Pathfinder went 1-7 this season.

Quarterback Hunter Griswold rushes on the sneak play.



## DEATH NOTICES

**Susan H. Bonneville, 76**  
Died: Nov. 27, 2021  
Funeral Mass: 10 a.m. Dec. 4 at  
Divine Mercy Parish

**James E. Brennan, 78**  
Died: Nov. 19, 2021  
Funeral: 9 a.m. Dec. 2 at Czelusniak  
Funeral Home

**Conrad Grenier, 66**  
Died: Nov. 5, 2021

**Robert William Manseau, 76**  
Died: Nov. 22, 2021

**Glenn J. Moquin, Jr., 31**  
Died: Nov. 22, 2021

**Noreen M. Sepiol (Kurtyka), 79**  
Died: Nov. 22, 2021

**Gordon E. Stone, 85**  
Died: Nov. 20, 2021

## O B I T U A R I E S

*Susan H. Bonneville, 76*

PALMER — Susan H. Bonneville, 76, passed away Nov. 27, 2021.

She was born on Nov. 20, 1945, in Ware to the late Fred and Helen (Kosmider) Krawczyk. After graduating from Palmer High School, Susan began her career as a Nurse, later becoming a Nurse Practitioner, working at both Baystate and Monson Developmental Center for 23 years.

Susan loved her dogs and cherished the many winters she and her husband, Leslie, spent in Florida. Besides her parents, Su-

san was predeceased by her brother, Robert Krawczyk, several aunts and uncles, and by her beloved dogs, Chassie, Ragz, Shy, and Sparky. She will be dearly missed by her husband of 51 years, Leslie Bonneville; sister-in-law, Audrey Gervais; cousin, Steven "Butch" Kosmider and his wife Charlene; and second cousins, Karen and her children, and Steven Kosmider III; and many close friends.



Visitation will be held 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Dec. 4 at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Susan's Funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. at Divine Mercy Parish in Three Rivers followed by burial in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Susan's memory to MSPCA. Visit [beersandstory.com](http://beersandstory.com) to extend online condolences.

*James E. Brennan, 78*

James E. "Jimmie" Brennan, 78, passed away on Nov. 19, 2021, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield with his brothers Rick and Jack at his bedside.

James was born on Nov. 21, 1942, in Springfield, son of the late James J. and Hazel E. (Rogers) Brennan. He attended the former Annunciation School in Florence and graduated from the former St. Michael's High School in Northampton in 1960. Following high school, Jim proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Jim spent the bulk of his time in the Army at Fort Sill, Okla.

Upon his return to Northampton, Jim served as a police officer in Northampton for 13 years. In 1974 Jim moved to San Clemente, Calif., and later took up residence in Trabuco Canyon, Calif. Jim worked as a parts manager until his retirement in 2008. He returned to Northampton (Florence) and resided at the family home on Middle Street.

Jimmie's great passion resided in anything automotive.

From his teenage years onward Jim's great passion was in working on cars of every description. While in California, Jim collaborated with his friends in building and racing stock cars. On a Sunday afternoon, Jim could be found watching football, car races or a golf tournament. In his later years Jim enjoyed a challenging round of golf, playing whenever or wherever he traveled.

Jim enjoyed being with friends and family. He was a great and loyal friend to all, never to be outdone in giving of his time or generosity, Jim was a friend to everyone he met. If you were a friend of Jim's, you were a friend for life. Jim could engage with everyone he met, and he always left one with a lasting impression.

Affectionally known as "Jimmie" by family members, Jim is survived by his brother Richard Brennan and his wife Pauline of Jacksonville, Fla.; brother Rev. John Brennan



of Monson; his nephew Yebrail K. Brennan of Orlando Fla., and his niece Sylvia Johnson and her husband Bryan of Sycamore, Ill.; his grandnieces and grandnephews and many cousins and friends. Jim is also survived by his lifelong friend John Leary and his wife Natalie. In addition to his parents, James was preceded in death by his sister Mary C. Brennan in 2013.

A funeral will start from Czelusniak Funeral Home, 173 North St. in Northampton, on Thursday Dec. 2 at 9 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Annunciation Chapel, Beacon St. In Florence at 10 a.m. and committal at St. Mary's Cemetery.

For online condolences, visit [czelusniakfuneralhome.com](http://czelusniakfuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or to a charity of your choice.

*Conrad Grenier, 66*

Conrad Grenier, 66, formerly of Three Rivers, passed away in his home in Port Orange, Fla., on Nov. 5, 2021.

He was preceded in death by

his parents Ruth and Roger Grenier, and his sister, Carol Seguin.

He is survived by his wife Linda and daughter Amee; four sisters, Susan Lowell, Paula

Berthiaume, Annmarie Rollet, and May-Jan McDonald; and a brother, Thomas Grenier.

*Robert William Manseau, 76*

Robert William Manseau, age 76, passed away on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021.

Robert was born in Lowell on April 25, 1945, to Oscar William Manseau and Jacqueline Irene (Leblanc) Manseau.

Robert graduated from Lowell High School in 1963 and proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1963 to 1967. He was a Vietnam War veteran and belonged to the American Legion and Massachusetts Free Masons. He worked as an engineering technician for 23 years at Digital Equipment Corporation and later at Ludlow Technical Products.

Robert was a man of strong faith. He belonged to the St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Easthampton, Massachusetts and served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister for over 20 years.

Of all Robert's roles in his

life, the ones he cherished most were that of loving husband, father, and grandfather. He married the love of his life, Nancy Lee (Koch) Manseau on May 3, 1973, and spent the next 48 years by her side raising their family together and modeling respect, care, and compassion for others. Robert enjoyed the outdoors and taking his family on camping trips to the D.A.R. State Park in Goshen, in the White Mountains, and by the ocean in Maine. Robert was the most generous type of human who would gladly give you the shirt off his back. He loved cracking jokes and making his family laugh, doing his crossword puzzles, and watching and learning from his programs on the History Channel. Robert had so much love and pride for all of his children and grandchildren and he will be dearly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Robert was predeceased by his father Oscar, his mother Jacqueline, and his brother Dennis. Robert leaves behind his devoted wife Nancy Lee of Ware; their five children, Richard Clifford and his wife Denise of Easthampton, MaryAnn Kortez of Belchertown, Eric Clifford and his wife Erin, of Hudson, New Hampshire, his daughter Jennifer Wood and her husband Charles of Fairfax, Vermont, and his daughter Rebecca Coughlin and her husband Warren of Ware. He also leaves behind his beloved twelve grandchildren.

In keeping with Robert's wishes, family services and burial will be held at the convenience of his family. For those who wish, contributions in Robert's memory may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project at [woundedwarriorproject.org/donate](http://woundedwarriorproject.org/donate).

## O B I T U A R I E S

*Noreen Sepiol, 79*

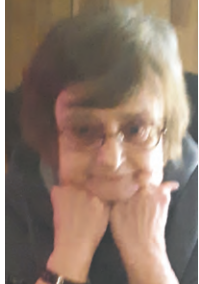
PALMER — Noreen M. (Kurtyka) Sepiol, 79, passed away on Nov. 22, 2021, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Born on Aug. 6, 1942, in Turners Falls, she was the daughter of Matthew and Agnes (Sliwa) Kurtyka. Noreen moved to Palmer at the age of 5 and spent the rest of her life there. She worked as a cashier for Big Y in Palmer, but was known for her many years at the Palmer Kmart from where she retired. She was a member of Bethany Charis-

matic Catholic Church and enjoyed spending time with family.

She also enjoyed playing Pitch and belonged to a league in Monson for several years. Noreen was also a good cook and an artist who dabbled in watercolors and drawing.

Her husband Richard died in 2015. She will be missed by her two children, Kimberly Sepiol-Ey and her husband Darryl of



Wilbraham, and Frank Sepiol and his wife Bonnie Leclair-Sepiol of Ware; She also leaves two grandsons, Zachary and Samuel Ey of Wilbraham; and a sister, Susan Mega, of Palmer. Her cat Dunkin will also miss Noreen.

A memorial mass will be held at a later date at Bethany Charismatic Catholic Church.

*Gordon E. Stone, 85*

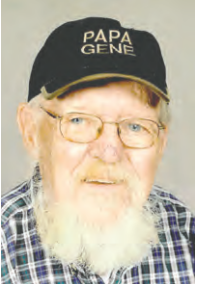
PALMER — Gordon E. Stone, 85, aka Papa Gene, passed away Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, surrounded by love of family.

Gene was born Sept. 27, 1936, to Gordon R. and Beth (Bissell) Stone. He was a graduate of Palmer High School and continued his education at AIC and WNEC (now WNEU) and then graduated from Northeastern University in Boston in the evening division while working at the First National Bank of Boston and living in Arlington. He was employed by United Fruit in NYC while living in Parsippany, N.J.

Upon returning to Palmer, he worked at Walker Motor Sales, Bertera Chevrolet and retired after 17 years from Wing Memorial Hospital in the Medicare Billing Department. He could always be found tending to his beautiful yard, fruit trees, bushes and flowers. Gene was a member of the Second Congregational Church in Palmer and sang in its choir for many years.

He was a Boy Scout and Past Master Councilor of Wickabogag Chapter, Order of DeMolay. Along with his father, he founded Pioneer Valley Chapter of DeMolay and was a MC of that chapter. He served on the state DeMolay installing suite. Gene was awarded the degree of Chevalier. Gene was a 50-year member of the Thomas Lodge, AF&AM, Order of Masons. He was a member of the Northampton branch of SPESBSQSA, barbershop quartet organization.

Gene was predeceased by his wife of 44 years, Sarah (Lombard) Stone in 2008. He leaves his children, George Stone and his wife Tracy of Grand Cayman Island, Tricia Arling and her husband Tim of Cromwell, Conn.; a sister, Barbara J. Stone of Palmer; grandchildren, Colton Stone and his wife Angie of Poland, Maine, Brandon Stone of



Greene, Maine, Jennifer and Allison Arling of Cromwell, Conn.; a step grandson, Alec McLaughlin of Portland, Maine; a great grandson, Theodore Stone; an aunt, Audrey Bissell of Goshen; a niece, Lisse Lombard and nephew, Francis Lombard as well as many cousins around the country.

Visiting hours were held Friday, Nov. 26, in Lombard Funeral Home in Monson. A Funeral Service will be held Saturday, Nov. 27, in Lombard Funeral home with burial following at Hillside Cemetery in Monson.

In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in Gene's name to Second Congregational Church 1080 Pleasant Street Palmer, MA 01069. For online condolences visit [lombardfuneralhome.com](http://lombardfuneralhome.com).

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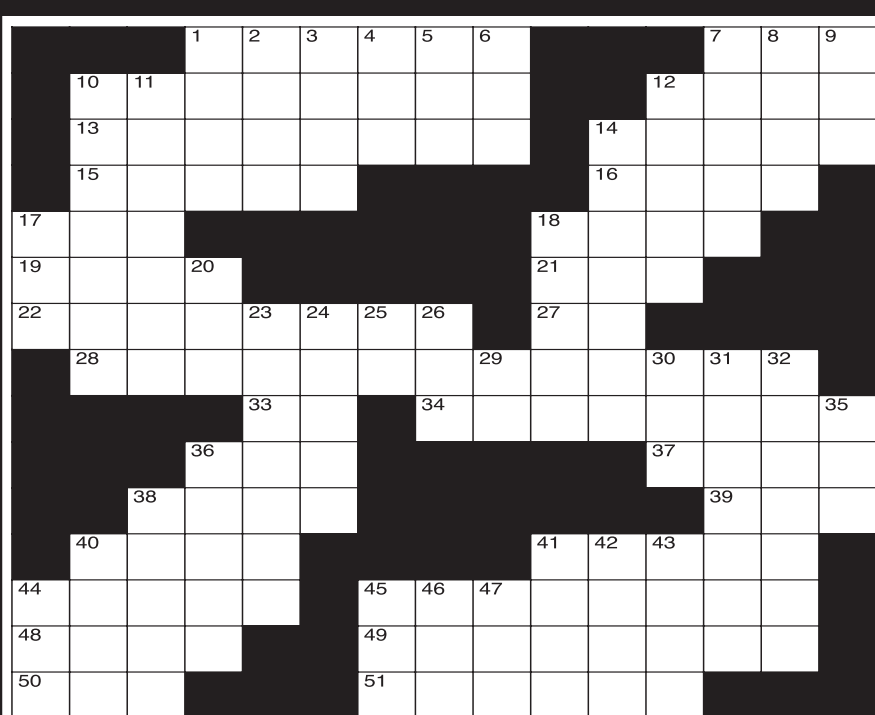
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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Topsides
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
10. A Sultan's court
12. Maine city
13. Largest living land animal
14. Appetizer
15. Encounters
16. Leader
17. The source of bacon
18. Nuclear near reach weapon (abbr.)
19. Celery (Spanish)
21. Pie \_\_\_ mode
22. Eye disease
27. Hello (slang)
28. Those in their 80s
33. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)

**CLUES DOWN**

1. N. American indigenous people
2. Fascinated by
3. Root of out
4. Patti Hearst's captors
5. Atomic #50
6. Habitual drunkard
7. Arabic for "peace"
8. Trickery
9. One's physique (slang)
10. Not quite there (abbr.)
11. Wistfully mournful
12. Popular dance
14. Cut of meat
17. A way to stand
18. "Gunga Din"
50. Tooth caregiver
51. King of Camelot

23. A way of jumping
24. Utah town
25. Of I
26. Actress de Armas
29. Silver
30. Play a role
31. \_\_\_ Falls
32. Attaches to
35. Japanese title
36. Expressed pleasure
38. Buckets
40. Dirt
41. Hypnotists' group (abbr.)
42. Restaurant drive-\_\_\_
43. Digs up
44. He voices "Olaf"
45. Relaxing place
46. Body part
47. Pesky house critter

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Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER  
POLICE DEPT.

*The Palmer Police Department responded to a total of 829 calls and made 13 arrests or summons for arrests Nov. 16 – Nov. 30. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:*

Tuesday, Nov. 16

Kiana Skyy, 30, of 1 Belcher-town St., Apt. 3., Three Rivers, was arrested at 9:44 p.m., on Springfield Street in Three Rivers on charges of possession with the intent to distribute a Class A drug; two counts of possession with the intent to distribute a Class B drug and possession of a class E drug.

Thursday, Nov. 18

Anthony Patrick Celata, 32, of 11 Williston Dr., Ware, was arrested at 6:15 p.m., on Ware Street in Thorndike, on charges of a marked lanes violation and operating a motor vehicle after license or the right to operate a motor vehicle was suspended.

Tristan Wilhelm, 20, of 648 Main St., Wilbraham, was arrested at 7:53 p.m., on North Main Street in Palmer, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle; operating an unregistered; attaching plates to a motor vehicle; registration not in possession and operating a motor vehicle in violation.

Saturday, Nov. 20

Ryan C. McHugh, 34, of 80 North St., Ware, was arrested at 2:30 a.m., on Park Street in Palmer, on charges operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and speeding rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

Sunday, Nov. 21

Barbara A. Jones, 72, of 17 Dugan Rd., Ware, was arrested at 6:02 p.m., on South Main Street in Palmer, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; a marked lanes violation; speeding and failing to stop for the police.

William Jude Bolduc, 64, of 210 Stafford Rd., Wales, was arrested at 6:24 p.m., on Park Street in Palmer, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor and a number plate violation.

Tuesday, Nov. 23

David M. Miller, 51, of 90 Peterson Rd., Palmer, was arrested at 10:14 p.m., on Main Street in Thorndike, for assault and battery.

Thursday, Nov. 25

Lesley E. Mahoney, 38, of 2 Lake George Rd., Wales, was arrested at 1:14 a.m., on Park Street in Palmer, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol; negligent operation of a motor vehicle and a marked lanes violation.

Saturday, Nov. 27

Daniel P. St. Andre, 42, of 194 Main St., Monson, was arrested at

2:05 a.m., on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; rate of speed exceeding the posted limit and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

MONSON  
POLICE DEPT.

*The Monson Police Department responded to a total of four calls and made 13 arrests or summons for arrests Nov. 14 - Nov. 20. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:*

Sunday, Nov. 14

Patrick M. Boots, 37, of 99 Main St., Apt. 1, Monson, was arrested at 9:50 p.m., for a WMS warrant.

Saturday, Nov. 20

Thomas W. Jr. Dvorchak, 61, of 18 T. Peck Rd., Apt. T, Monson, was arrested at 6:08 p.m., on charges of possession of a Class B drug; conspiracy to violate a drug law and resisting arrest.

Luis Antonio III Marrero, 49, of 17 Pasadena St., Apt. 4R, Springfield, was arrested at 6:08 p.m., on charges of distributing a substance; possession to distribute a Class B drug; conspiracy to violate a drug law and carrying a dangerous weapon.

Fire Logs

PALMER

*The Palmer Fire Department responded to 15 calls Nov. 17 – Nov. 21:*

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 2 a.m., the department responded to a call that was cancelled en route on Ware Street. The department returned to service at 7 a.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 3:40 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Beacon Drive. The department returned to service at 4:10 p.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 9:45 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 10:01 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 18, at 3:11 p.m., the department responded to a gas leak on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 3:30 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 18, at 3:55 p.m., the department responded to a high-angle rescue on Bunyan Road. The department returned to service at 9:20 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 18, at 4:28 p.m., the department responded to a high-angle rescue on Macomber Road. The department returned to service at 9:20 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 18, at 5:13 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Wilbraham Street. The department returned to service at 5:31 p.m.

On Friday, Nov. 19, at 1:34 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Michael Drive. The department returned to service at 2:00 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 20, at 4:30 a.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Flynt Street. The department returned to service at 5:11 a.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 20, at 10:26

a.m., the department responded to a good intent call on Michael Drive. The department returned to service at 10:47 a.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 20, at 2:51 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on River Street. The department returned to service at 3:51 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 20, at 3:23 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Fox Street. The department returned to service at 3:53 p.m.

On Saturday, Nov. 20, at 4:54 p.m., the department responded to a vehicle accident on Boston Road. The department returned to service at 5:50 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 21, at 3:44 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Wright Street. The department returned to service at 4:19 a.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 21, at 5:31 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Ware Street. The department returned to service at 6:10 a.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 21, at 9:39 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation on Park Street. The department returned to service at 10:08 p.m.

BONDSVILLE

*The Bondsville Fire Department responded to two calls Nov. 16 - 29:*

On Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 11:37 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Third Street. The department returned to service at 11:48 a.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 23, at 12:34 p.m., the department responded to a gas leak on State Street. The department returned to service to at 1:45 p.m.

MONSON

*The Monson Fire Department responded to eight fire calls and 24 EMS calls Nov. 1 - 7:*

On Monday, Nov. 15, at 12:17 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation at 12:17 a.m. The department returned to service at 12:57 a.m.

On Monday, Nov. 15, at 10:34 a.m., the department responded to a structure fire on Crest Road. The department returned to service at 11:27 a.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 8:21 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Upper Palmer Road. The department returned to service at 8:41 p.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 11:39 p.m., the department responded to a telephone on fire call on Wales Road. The department returned to service at 11:49 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 18, at 7:57 a.m., the department responded to a chimney fire on Waid Road. The department returned to service at 8:34 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 18, at 11:33 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on Hovey Road. The department returned to service at 12:17 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 18, at 3:30 p.m., the department responded to an EMS assistance call in the area on Macomber Road and Bunyan Road. The department returned to service at 10:31 p.m.

On Friday, Nov. 19, at 7:16 p.m., the department responded to a fluid spill on Bethany Road. The department returned to service at 7:42 p.m.

Monson firefighters  
rescue fallen rock climber

MONSON — The Monson Fire Department recently rescued a man who fell down an embankment and into the woods while rock-climbing in the vicinity of Rt. 32.

Chief Brian Harris said the department received a call from dispatch at around 3:45 p.m. Nov. 18 and received GPS coordinates for the victim, who was injured and in rough terrain between Bun-ion and Hospital roads. Monson police were first on the scene and administered aid until EMTs could arrive.

It took about 30 minutes for EMTs to reach the site. Harris said the rock climber, a 73 year-old male, appeared to have slipped and tumbled down into the embankment. He sustained several injuries, but none the appeared life threatening, Harris said.

“He was pretty banged up,” the chief said.

Even with the coordinates, it too some searching to find the man and rescuers had to navigate challenging terrain.

“We obviously know where he cliff is and knew he was a the cliff,

so it was just a matter of getting in and once we located him, we began treatment and formulating a plan for extrication,” Harris said.

With backup from the Palmer and Hampden fire departments as well as the Western Mass Technical Rescue Team, equipment designed for this time of rescue was brought in and the victim was brought out of the woods by around 9 p.m.

He was then taken by Monson Fire Dept. Ambulance to BayState Springfield.

What’s happening at the Palmer Library?

*The Palmer Public Library at 1455 North Main Street, has all new programs for teens and young adults this month while existing favorite activities, such as the Writers Circle, Anime Club, and Book Club continue. For more information and to register for events when required, go to palmerlibrary.org.*

*To speak with a librarian, call 413-283-3330.*

Here’s what’s new:

Gingerbread house season is here! A new Take & Make Activity lets you build your own sugary shack! Kits include graham crackers, assorted candy, icing packets, instructions, and a cardboard base. This is for all ages. Kits MUST be picked up promptly, as they contain food items. Registration begins Monday, Dec. 6. Curbside pickup begins Dec. 13. You will be notified when kits are ready. Register at palmerlibrary.org or call 413-283-3330.

Upcoming:

Teen Writer’s Circle 3:30-5 p.m. Dec. 7  
Fidget Trading Post, 4-5 p.m. Dec. 9 (registration required)  
Spiderman Meet & Greet and Movie Watch Party 5-8 Dec. 16

New book titles available all the time. Stop on in or browse titles/order online.

Work with life partner  
to achieve mutual goals

When you and your life partner work together to achieve your important long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement lifestyle, the experience can be greatly rewarding. However, your success will require commitment and discipline. So, what steps should you take along the way?

One key move is to decide early in your relationship how you will handle money. Many couples merge their finances and make joint decisions on major purchases. But some couples like to keep at least part of their finances distinct, perhaps by maintaining separate checking or savings accounts. There’s really no one correct solution for everyone, but whatever you decide, you’ll want to be assured that all the bills will be paid and that neither one of you feels the pressure of an unfair financial burden.

Here’s another suggestion: Try to avoid keeping financial secrets from your partner. That means disclosing your debts, hidden funds or uncommon investments. These types of surprises can lead to difficulties and mistrust. Even if you’re entering the relationship carrying something like a heavy student loan, it’s best to get it out in the open right away so, together, you can strive to gradually eliminate it.

Of course, there’s also a practical side to not keeping secrets. Your large student loan could affect your credit rating – an issue that may arise when you and your partner are seeking a mortgage or some other type of loan. Clearly, you both should be aware of this potential stumbling block before you begin the application process.

Now, let’s consider your investments. You each may have your own IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, but you might also share a joint investment account. However, you might not share the same risk tolerance – perhaps one of you tends to be more aggressive, willing to take more risks in exchange for potentially higher returns, while the other is more conservative, preferring to keep down the risk level of a portfolio, even if it means lesser capacity for growth.

Again, neither you nor your partner is necessarily “right” or “wrong” in your views on investing – and nobody’s feelings about risk should be ignored. But once you’ve clearly identified your retirement goals and estimated their cost, you may find that compromise is possible. In other words, perhaps the conservative partner will realize that a too-cautious approach could hinder progress toward the desired retirement goal, while the partner who focuses on maximum growth will learn that a somewhat less aggressive approach can still yield the desired results. This type of compromise may affect the investment choices you make in your individual accounts as well as your joint accounts. And the way you choose your investments may even change over time, especially if your financial goals evolve.

Ultimately, communication is the key. As long as you’re talking to each other and openly expressing your wishes and concerns, you and your partner can find a way to keep moving toward your mutual goals.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*  
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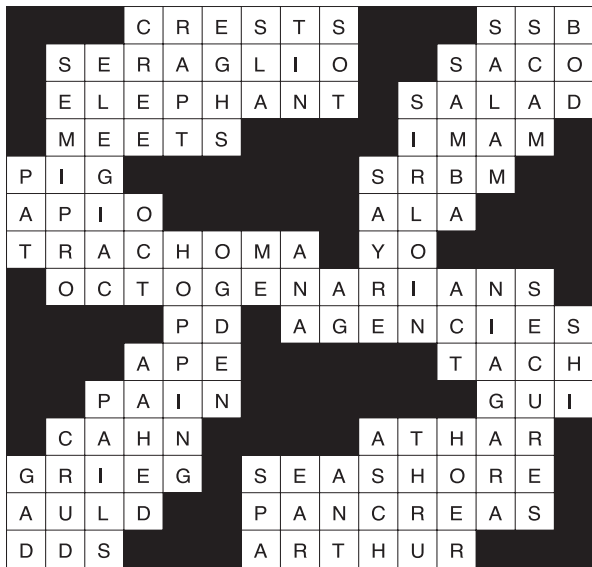
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# Public notices

## Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. s11, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing **Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 7:10 P.M.** in the public meeting room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, on the application of Dish Wireless, LLC for a Site Plan Review as provided by Sections 6.14.1(2) Wireless Communications Facilities Regulations and 7.4 Site Plan Review of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant proposes to place 3 antennas, 6 RRU's, 3 junction boxes, and 3 cables on the existing communications facility and to lease a 5 x 7 ft area for ground equipment on property located at 5 High Street Monson, MA, Map 95 Parcel 43, owned by First Church of Monson. A copy of the application is on file with the Planning Board and available for viewing during regular office hours.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman  
12/02, 12/09/2021

## TOWN OF WALES LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A Section 11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **December 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Wales Senior Center, 85 Old Stafford Rd., Wales, MA 01081, on the application submitted by Kim O'Keefe, for a Special Permit for use of 16 Holland Rd. to be a restaurant/bar, and for that use to remain with the property. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to the town website ([www.town-ofwales.net](http://www.town-ofwales.net)). Virtual information is available on the agenda posted. If you have any questions or concerns, please email [planning@townofwales.net](mailto:planning@townofwales.net) 11/25, 12/02/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21A0071AD & HD21A0072AD**  
In the matter of:  
**Courtney Isabella Gesser & Alexis Emily Gesser CITATION G.L.c. 210, § 6**

TO: any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:  
**Timothy Haire of Brimfield, MA Shari Haire of Brimfield, MA**

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

**Courtney Isabella Haire & Alexis Emily Haire**

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY

MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/17/2021**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 16, 2021  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/02/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21P2141EA**  
Estate of: **John R Wilson**  
Date of Death: **10/09/2016**  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Robert M Wilson** of Northampton, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Robert M Wilson** of Northampton, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in unsupervised administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/16/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 18, 2021  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/02/2021

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

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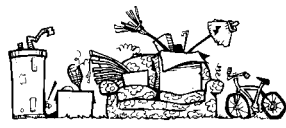
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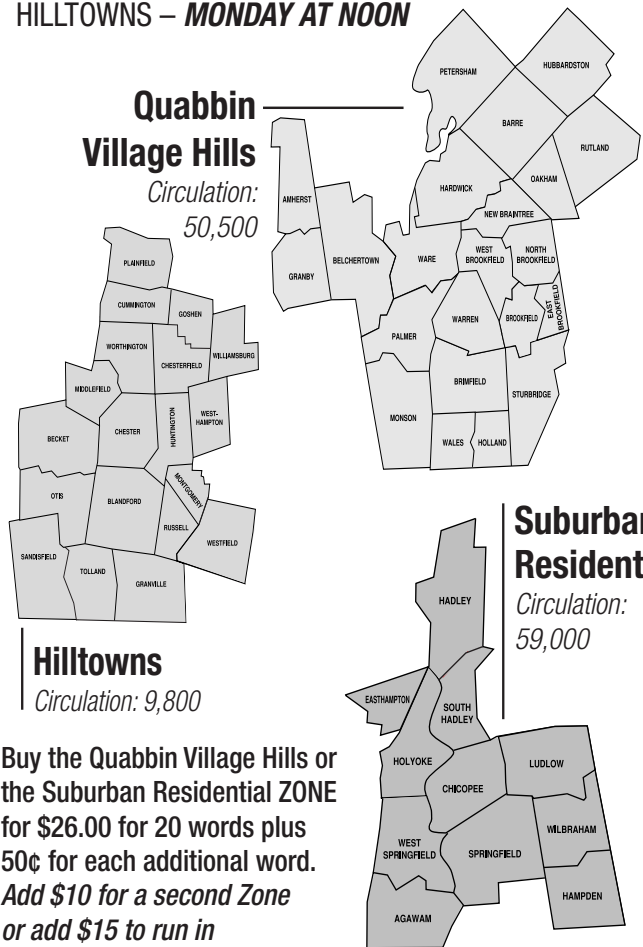


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**All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 17 at Noon for Publication Dec. 22-24**

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**All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 23 at Noon for Publication Dec. 29-31**

*Happy Holidays!*



# Chamber of Commerce holds annual meeting



Turley Publications Advertising Representative Dan Flynn, left, talks with Kylie Gibbons and Billy Fredericks, who both work for the Office of State Senator Ryan Fattman.



Members from Oxford Insurance Agency from left, Raymond Becker, Ryan Berg and Joshua Ruggerio, welcome the newest member to join the chamber, Randy Recchia, co-owner of Palmer Appliance Center, set to open in December.



From left, Eugene Santos-Roesler and Cindy Clark from Savers Bank, along with Michelle Rondeau and her brother, Michael Rondeau, of Rondeau's Dairy Bar.



Turley Publications President Keith Turley is shown with Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School Superintendent Eric Duda; Director of Guidance Brenda Turner and Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Carrie Auffrey.



Keynote Speaker Kevin Kuros talked about the programs the Massachusetts Office of Business Development has to offer to businesses.

By Paula Ouimette  
Staff Writer

STURBRIDGE — The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce held their Annual Members Dinner at the Publick House on Wednesday, Nov. 17, with a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. Those attending in-person were treated to a buffet-style meal that perfectly encapsulated fall in New England.

Following the dinner, QHCC Chairperson Lena Buteau, president of Monson Savings Bank, welcomed the members in attendance, especially thanking the QHCC Executive Team for their dedication and perseverance through a challenging two years.

"This team has such a passion for the well-being and success of our community business partners. They understand we are truly better together and have worked tirelessly over the past few years to guarantee the viability and growth of the QHCC to ensure we continue to be a strong presence in our area and a 'go to' for resources and business connections that benefit each business with their individual need," Buteau said.

She also thanked chamber CEO Andrew Surprise for joining the QHCC in January of this year as a consultant, shifting to part-time staff in March and now full-time since September. "knowing full well what he was signing up for." Despite the challenges, Surprise has worked to develop relationships in all 15 chamber towns. "We are grateful that Andrew's positive, professional and caring personality has become the face of the QHCC," Buteau said. A total of eight new members have joined the chamber this year.

Buteau made motions to forego the review of last year's virtual annual meeting notes and to also retain the Executive Committee in their current positions. Both motions were seconded and passed favorably. The Executive Committee for the upcoming year will remain as follows: Buteau, Chairperson; Tanya Bullcock, Past Chairperson; Renee Niedziela, Treasurer; Andrew Philbrook, Assistant Treasurer; Julie Quink, Financial Liaison; Debra Christensen, Clerk; and Joshua Ruggiero, Membership Liaison.

Surprise, a former city councilor in Westfield, recognized the chamber need-

ed to establish connections in the communities as well as the legislature. Having a relationship with the legislature is necessary to advocate for the businesses and communities the QHCC serves, Surprise said.

For the upcoming year, the chamber will be focusing on updating their member services, with new assistance such as social media advertising. The QHCC has applied for a \$60,000 grant to establish a business and civic association in both Belchertown and Monson, helping to direct chamber resources. Surprise said the chamber will soon be launching an app linked to QHCC members, providing savings and deals for customers.

One of the featured speakers, Amy Scribner, is the director for the River East School-to-Career, based in the Palmer Public Library. Partnered with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, River East has been providing career training to high school students in eight school districts for 17 years.

The program teaches soft skills to students through activities, making them more successful in the work force. Many graduates of the program have returned to become mentors after making gains in their career fields. "This is why I love my job," Scribner said. "If you give some time to a student, I can tell you it will have such a positive impact on a young person's future."

Keynote speaker was Kevin Kuros, Central MA Director of the Massachusetts Office of Business Development. Kuros eventually found his way into the State House after being elected to the Board of Selectmen in his town of Uxbridge, and enjoys "working for municipalities, businesses and government every day."

The MOBD, part of the Baker-Polito Administration, fields calls from consultants seeking ideal locations and spaces to meet their project's needs. "Every day is different," Kuros said. "Every day is fresh and exciting."

Many incentives are offered through the MOBD, including tax increment financing (TIF), providing relief from additional taxes due to increased tax value after a business expands.

Another incentive is the Vacant Storefront program, designed to redevelop empty spaces into thriving new businesses through a matching grant program. Businesses can receive up to \$10,000 from the town and \$10,000 from the state when accepted into this program.

Kuros said while most of the MOBD's work is related to helping consultants and businesses, they also provide funding to Massachusetts's zoos. The MOBD has also partnered with a number of other government agencies to form Team Massachusetts. Kuros said, "you call one of us, you get all of us."

For more information about QHCC, people may visit qhma.com, email info@qhama.com, call 413-283-2418 or stop by their office located at 4 Springfield St., Three Rivers.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

*Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text — no PDFs, please — to mharrison@turley.com.*

### NOW

**LIGHT UP PALMER:** Come to Depot Park 3 p.m. Dec. 4 for ice sculpting, free coffee and hot chocolate, s'mores, food trucks, face painting, the official lighting of the park, a reading of "The Polar Express," and more. For more information, visit the LightUpPalmer Facebook page, where residents who are interested in participating in the annual neighborhood decorating contest can sign up by noon on Dec. 6.

**TREE AND WREATH FESTIVAL:** The Palmer Historical and Cultural Center will hold its ninth annual Tree and Wreath Festival Dec. 3-5 and Dec. 11-12. Come for a wide selection of trees, wreaths, ornaments, gifts, and more. Proceeds will be used by PHCC in carrying out the PHCC mission in providing diversified cultural events for Palmer, surrounding communities, and Western Mass. region. The festival will be held 4-7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 4-5 and Dec. 11-12. For more, visit the PHCC website at palmerhcc.org or call 413-289-9295.

**STUFF THE CRUISER:** Bring a new, unwrapped toy — all ages are needed — and a non-perishable food donation to the Stuff the Cruiser event 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 4, at the Palmer Police Department, 4417 Main Street. Donations go to local families in need. To learn more about Santa's Elves, visit the group on Facebook or email Chiacchia.

**DINNER AND MUSIC:** On Saturday, Dec. 4, the First Church of Monson Music Committee will hold a dinner followed by a concert. The Fanfare Brass Ensemble under the direction of David Neill will perform as will Kiel Krommer on organ. The audience will be invited to join in the singing of Christmas carols. The dinner features baked ham, roasted potatoes, cranberry-orange relish, butternut squash, and apple cake with whipped cream for dessert. Tickets are \$20 for the dinner and concert. Dinner will be served at 5 P.M.; the concert will follow at 7 p.m. Contact Gail at 413 267 4818 for dinner/concert reservations. Tickets for the concert are \$5 and will be available at the door.

**BIRDS OF PREY:** The Holland Public Library, 23 Sturbridge Road, hosts New England Birds of Prey at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, presented by Wingmasters. You will meet and learn about some of the eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls that live in our area. For more, call 413-245-3607.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** The West Mass Brass Band will be performing a free Christmas Concert at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at Faith Community Chapel, 485 East Street in Ludlow. All are welcome to enjoy the concert and to have refreshments in the church Fellowship Hall after the concert. For more information, call 413-584-7875.

**SANTA IS COMING:** Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive on the fire truck at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, in Hryniewicz Park (corner of Springfield and Maple streets) in Three Rivers. Have your picture take with them at the gazebo. Donuts and hot chocolate available. Free.

### SOON

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE:** The Monson Historical Society will hold a Holiday Open House 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the historic Jacob Thompson House Museum located at 7 Main Street in Monson. Tour the museum. The south parlor has been restored to its former glory. Refreshments will be served.

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP:** Gingerbread house season is here! Take home a kit from the Palmer Library and build your own sugary shack! Kits include graham crackers, assorted candy, icing packets, instructions, and a cardboard base. This is for all ages. Kits MUST be picked up promptly, as they contain food items. Registration begins Monday, Dec. 6. Curbside pickup begins Dec. 13. You will be notified when kits are ready. Register at palmerlibrary.org or call 413-283-3330.

## NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

## Bring the Kids to Breakfast With Santa



**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 12**

**ENJOY**

**Santa's Elves' Breakfast Buffet**

**8:45am - 1:00pm**

Enjoy hearty pancakes, cereals, cooked to order omelettes, fresh pastries and muffins, scrambled eggs, bacon, homefries, fresh fruit and juices, coffee & more!

Children 4-12 are \$12.95  
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